

International Society of Physiotherapy Journal Editors

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The International Society of Physiotherapy Journal Editors (ISPJE) is a network of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy that is open to editors and editorial board members of journals that publish material related to physiotherapy. It was established in 2007 to provide a forum to discuss issues related to the publication of physiotherapy journals, to enhance collaboration between editorial staff of those journals, and to foster improvements in the quality of physiotherapy publications. *Journal of Physiotherapy* is a member journal. The purpose of this editorial is to present the activities of the ISPJE and how they can benefit physiotherapy clinicians and researchers.

The ISPJE maintains a free online register of member journals. This is a valuable service because the number of physiotherapy journals is expanding, making it difficult to keep track of them all. In the five years since the ISPJE was established, the number of member journals has increased from 40 to 110. Clinicians could scan this register to discover a journal that may be publishing content in their area of interest. Clinicians may easily be unaware of such journals because most physiotherapy journals are not indexed on many of the major electronic databases. For example, only 14% of member journals of the ISPJE are indexed on Medline.

As well as providing the names of member journals, the ISPJE register also provides a searchable index of other details that may influence a clinician's choice about which journals might be of interest. Such details include whether it is available in print and/or electronic formats, the language(s) of publication, and the number of issues per year. Similarly, physiotherapists involved in research could use the register to identify journals to read or in which to publish. The ISPJE register also contains other details to help researchers decide which journal might be an appropriate publication venue for their unpublished work. For example, the register shows whether the journal is freely available or subscription only, the range of electronic databases on which it is indexed, and whether manuscripts can be submitted on paper, attached to an email, or uploaded via a website. Clinicians or researchers who identify a journal that they would like their library to subscribe to will also find the necessary details to make such a request, including the journal's numeric identifier (ISSN), publisher and website.

Of course it can be difficult to judge whether a journal is of interest without seeing the content. The ISPJE therefore also provides two more sources of information about the content of each journal. The first is a text summary of the content

of each journal. For example, *Physiotherapy Ireland* is described as providing two or three invited commentaries, five or six research articles, and book reviews, whereas *Journal of Physical Therapy Education* provides one editorial, four research articles, a position paper, four method/model articles, book reviews and abstracts. The second source of information about content is a showcase of free samples: a couple of full-text articles nominated by each journal's editor to show examples of that journal's best material.

Subscribers to *Journal of Physiotherapy* also benefit from its membership of the ISPJE because of the support all members receive. The ISPJE convenes face-to-face meetings at WCPT and organises web-based seminars on topical issues in publishing. This helps keep our editorial board aware of other resources (such as the documents published by the Committee on Publication Ethics, COPE, to guide editors in how to deal with research misconduct and other ethical dilemmas in publishing) and new initiatives (such as the new public register for protocols of systematic reviews known as PROSPERO). The ISPJE informs members about potentially problematic issues that may be on the horizon, allowing us to be proactive in dealing with them. *Journal of Physiotherapy* also benefits from collaborative advice sharing between journals.

The ISPJE seeks to increase its role in encouraging member journals to make more informed and cohesive responses to issues in publishing. For example, the ISPJE has an ongoing mentorship program where larger journals can mentor smaller ones. In addition to the mentorship program, the ISPJE is planning its first joint editorial on important issues in publishing. These interactions and joint actions can ultimately provide better standards for publishing that hopefully will be used by all physiotherapy journals in order to promote physiotherapy publications worldwide.

In summary, physiotherapists can benefit directly by using the information provided by the ISPJE about the range of journals that are available in our profession. Readers of *Journal of Physiotherapy* also benefit indirectly from the support we receive from ISPJE to raise the standard of our journal.

Websites

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): <http://publicationethics.org/>

International Society of Physiotherapy Journal Editors: <http://www.wcpt.org/ispje/>

PROSPERO: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/>